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AUTHOR	McEvoy, Maureen
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ABSTRACT

This book is an introduction to the problem of child sexual abuse. Written in simple and direct language, with illustrations to reinforce key points, the book offers the perspective of small communities and contains a section on how communities can organize to do something about the problem of sexual abuse. Intended for parents, teachers, family members, community workers, or anyone wanting to make a change, the book can be used alone or with groups, or in classrooms and workshops. It focuses on British Columbia, but the child welfare and legal systems discussed are similar throughout Canada. Chapter 1 explains the problem of child sexual abuse and how victims try to cope with it. Chapter 2 covers the child protection system and the legal system. It also discusses issues of native self-determination. Chapter 3 describes the local action that can be taken to address child sexual abuse and lists steps in community organizing. Chapter 4 gives ideas for prevention programs, support groups, and other resources for healing. The appendix contains: (1) a bibliography of 60 books and films; (2) sources of information about child protection in Canada; (3) interviewing guidelines for native band social workers; and (4) a glossary of terms used in the book. (TJQ)

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